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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 5527
INFO RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 5614

UNCLAS STATE 004829

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [OPDC](#) [RS](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT REQUEST TO ENTER BAGRAM AIR
FORCE BASE, AFGHANISTAN

1.(SBU) Please deliver the following message from Secretary
Rice to Foreign Minister Lavrov. There will be no signed
original.

2.(SBU) Begin Text:

Dear Mr. Minister:

Thank you for your letter regarding a visit by Russian personnel
to Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan, to view an obelisk
commemorating Soviet airmen.

We welcome a visit to the base by the Russian Ambassador to
Afghanistan and his in-country staff in order to view the

monument. Reconstruction or removal of the obelisk,
however, can only take place after an understanding
is reached with the
Afghan government.

I hope this step will help advance your efforts to ensure the
appropriate commemoration of Soviet airmen.

Sincerely,

Condoleezza Rice
RICE